

What is claimed is:

1. A method of packaging a rolled article by winding a packaging sheet having skirt members on respective opposite side edges thereof around the rolled article which has a rolled elongate sheet with end packaging members attached respectively to opposite sides thereof, comprising the steps of:

gripping a side edge of said packaging sheet and feeding the packaging sheet from the side edge thereof to a winding position to position the packaging sheet in the winding position;

positioning said rolled article with respect to said packaging sheet in said winding position;

attaching an end of said packaging sheet to an end of said elongate sheet of said rolled article;

rotating said rolled article while gripping a winding end of said packaging sheet to wind said packaging sheet around said rolled article; and

mounting said skirt members on said end packaging members while pressing the end packaging members against respective opposite ends of said rolled article.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

displacing the gripped winding end of said packaging sheet toward said rolled article in synchronism with the

rotation of said rolled article.

3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

5           after said packaging sheet is pressed against said rolled article by rollers, releasing the winding end of said packaging sheet, and winding said packaging sheet around said rolled article.

10           4. An apparatus for packaging a rolled article by winding a packaging sheet having skirt members on respective opposite side edges thereof around the rolled article which has a rolled elongate sheet with end packaging members attached respectively to opposite sides thereof, comprising:

15           a packaging sheet feed mechanism for gripping a side edge of said packaging sheet and feeding the packaging sheet from the side edge thereof to a winding position to position the packaging sheet in the winding position;

20           a rotating and supporting mechanism for positioning said rolled article with respect to said packaging sheet in said winding position, and rotating said rolled article;

          an attaching mechanism for attaching an end of said packaging sheet to an end of said elongate sheet of said rolled article;

25           a packaging sheet holding mechanism for gripping a winding end of said packaging sheet and moving the packaging sheet toward said rolled article when said rolled article is

rotated;

a pressing mechanism for pressing the end packaging members against respective opposite ends of said rolled article; and

5 a skirt installing mechanism for installing said skirt members on said end packaging members.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said packaging sheet feed mechanism comprises:

10 clamp means for gripping the side edge of said packaging sheet; and

moving means for moving said clamp means to said winding position.

15 6. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said rotating and supporting mechanism comprises:

a pair of engaging means for engaging the opposite ends of said rolled article;

20 displacing means for moving said engaging means symmetrically toward and away from each other; and

rotating means for rotating said rolled article through said engaging means.

25 7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said pressing mechanism is displaceable in unison with said engaging means by said displacing means.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said skirt installing mechanism is displaceable in unison with said engaging means by said displacing means.

5           9. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said attaching mechanism comprises:

          positioning and holding means for positioning and holding the end of said elongate sheet; and

10           pressing means for pressing the end of said packaging sheet against the end of said elongate sheet positioned and held by said positioning and holding means, with a joint means interposed therebetween.

15           10. An apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

          rollers for pressing said packaging sheet against said rolled article.

20           11. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said skirt members are made of a shrink material which is shrinkable when heated, and said skirt installing mechanism comprises heating means for shrinking and installing said skirt members on said end packaging members.